

# **Animal Welfare Network Aotearoa**

**Theme: "Animal welfare and use of technology"**

**PANEL DISCUSSION**

# NAWAC perspective on current state

- Highly innovative agricultural sector
- Absence of reference to Animal Welfare in the New Zealand Agri-Tech Industry Transformation Plan (ITP)
- No established typology of animal-base agri-tech
- No generally accepted understanding of potential benefits and risks
- Unlike ACVM, no pro-active regulatory consideration of animal-based agritech prior to adoption
- NAWAC reviews of Codes of Welfare encounter newly adopted technologies
- NAWAC reviews become the focus for debates of acceptability and risk management
- Animal welfare risks and harms, and lack of pro-active consideration, undermines social licence
- Current state does not reflect the ambition of NZ AW Strategy – partnership between government, industry leadership and public



# A possible typology of animal-based agritech

- a. **Wearable devices** (e.g., RFID eartags, wearable devices with sensing technology)
- b. **Internal devices** (e.g. RFID microchip implants, electronic boluses)
- c. **Mechanical engineering within animal husbandry systems** (e.g., automated crushes, scales and drafting gates; dairy parlour robotics; grooming devices; misting devices; automated ventilation systems; smart housing)
- d. **Mechanical engineering within animal slaughter systems** (e.g., fish harvest systems, electrical stunning systems, sheep washing facilities)
- e. **Drones, self-drive vehicles, and mobile robots**
- f. **Digital technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI)** (N.B. these digital technologies are typically integrated and associated with the hardware technologies listed above)
- g. **Biotechnologies** that alter the genetics of animals or used as therapies for animals



# Over-arching theme

How can we bring to life the partnership described in the NZ Animal Welfare Strategy to support innovation and risk management?

What roles are needed?



Discussion topics:

1. Benefits and risks
2. Responsibilities
3. Options – regulatory and non-regulatory